The Public Service Commission was established in 1910 to regulate public service companies within the state (Chapter 180, Acts of 1910). The Commission exercises jurisdiction over all gas, electric, telephone, telegraph, water, sewage disposal and steam heating companies operating within the State. The Commission has the power to fix rates and to suspend rate schedules pending the determination of the reasonableness of proposed rates. Public utilities may not abandon or discontinue any franchise without permission of the Commission.

Within Maryland, the Commission has jurisdiction over common carriers engaged in the public transportation of passengers (except those carriers of passengers that come within the jurisdiction of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission), or carriers of flammables in bulk. The Public Service Commission also has jurisdiction over all taxicabs operating in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cumberland, and Hagerstown. The Commission licenses taxicab drivers in Baltimore City. Since 1984, it also sets pilotage rates.

The Commission deals with rate adjustments; applications to exercise franchises; approval of issuance of securities; promulgation of new rules and regulations; and quality of utility and common carrier service. It has authority to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for construction of new generating stations or transmission lines of a certain capacity (Code 1957, Art. 78, secs. 1-107).

The Commission is authorized to make joint investigations, hold joint hearings, and issue joint or other concurrent orders in conjunction with any official state or federal board or commission under agreements and compacts between states, under the concurrent powers of states to regulate interstate commerce as an agency of the federal government, or otherwise (Code 1957, Art. 78, secs. 1,59). The General Assembly has provided that "the powers of the Commission shall be liberally construed" so that they may effectively deal with the dynamic nature of public service companies.

Each utility and common carrier under Commission jurisdiction is assessed a proportionate share of the Commission's direct and indirect expenses.

Appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent, the Commission consists of five members who serve five-year terms. The Governor names the chair. Appointed by the Commission, the General Counsel is an attorney-at-law of the State (Code 1957, Art. 78).

## STATE RETIREMENT & PENSION SYSTEM

Peter Vaughn, Executive Director, State Retirement Agency

300 West Preston St., Room 200 (410) 767-4051 Baltimore, MD 21201 fax: (410) 333-7557 forms & information: (410) 767-4040 toll free: 1-800-492-5909

World Wide Web:

http://www.sra.state.md.us/sra/

## BUDGET (CODE GJ01, formerly 26.10.01)

	FY1994	FY1995	FY1996
Funds	(actual)		
Special	\$9,098,011	. \$8,955,317	\$15,572,910
Total Funds	\$9,098,011	. \$8,955,317	\$15,572,910
Staff			
Authorized	136	140	144.00
Contractual (F7	ΓE)1	2	22.33
Total Staff	137	142	166.33

## HISTORICAL EVOLUTION

Teachers' Retirement System, 1927-70 Department of Personnel, Teachers' Retirement System, 1970-82

Pension System for Teachers of the State of Maryland, 1979-82

Employees' Retirement System, 1941-70